

Mayor's Message

January 2011

Welcome to 2011! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that you are looking forward, as I am, to great things in the New Year. Sending an old year out and greeting the new one is a fun tradition. When the clock strikes twelve, I love to hear my neighbors come out of their homes with horns, noisemakers or pots and pans to make a collective cheer. There is something about the exuberance we share as we anticipate what a New Year might bring.

During the month of January, I would like to solicit your help in another kind of collective cheer. Reader's Digest Magazine will spend the next 3 months looking at the needs of cities around the country. They have asked citizens to 'cheer' for their cities and talk about some of the things they would like to see happen in their towns. In April they will award the cities with the most cheering some prize money to help make the wishes a reality. There is an opportunity for you to express what **you** think would be important for Murray to consider improving.

As I have considered the areas where we could make a difference, I think about the Armory building in Murray Park. This building was a maintenance facility for the National Guard for many years. Salt Lake County used funding they had to purchase it and then dedicated the building to the City. It is surrounded by Murray Park on three sides, with the Boys and Girls Club on the other. We would like to incorporate it into the Park, then use it as a community event center. The building has been evaluated and is structurally sound. Preliminary plans have been drawn and we feel this could be a positive way to utilize this facility. If you have tried to find a location for a large meeting, class, party or activity, you are aware of the need for this type of public gathering place.

We have been in touch with Congressman Matheson to help us with funding to improve the building, but any opportunity to help move this project forward would be good. Would you be willing to help by cheering for Murray and this building? It is very easy to do and you can cheer 10 times per day.

Please go to <http://wehearyouamerica.readersdigest.com> and Murray City, UT or the zipcode 84107. Then click on "Cheer." You can hit the button 10 times in a row to complete your cheer. The competition runs to February 7, 2011. At that time, Reader's Digest will award \$5 million in prize money in a wide variety of categories. Your comments regarding other improvements you would like to see will also be helpful as we plan for the future. You may also go to the city webpage at www.murray.utah.gov to find a link.

Thank you for being willing to participate in our collective cheer. This is a case where everyone can make a difference and we can see more positive outcomes for our City in 2011. Happy New Year!